USDA Foreign Agricultural Service
GAIN Report
Global Agriculture Information Network
Template Version 2.09

Voluntary Report - public distribution

Date: 9/5/2008

GAIN Report Number: IN8104

India

Agricultural Situation

Monsoon Update (9)

2008

Approved by:
Holly Higgins
U.S. Embassy

Prepared by:
A. Govindan

Report Highlights:
After improved performance during the first three weeks of August, the monsoon activity has again slumped during the past two weeks ending September 3, with rainfall mostly confined to northeastern and southern states. Recent unprecedented floods in several northern districts of Bihar have left millions of people marooned in eight districts of the state and has inundated vast areas of farm land, which the Prime Minister has declared as a national calamity.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Trade Report
New Delhi [IN1]
[IN]

After improved performance during the first three weeks of August, monsoon activity has again slumped during the past two weeks ended September 3, with rainfall mostly confined to northeastern and southern states (Figure 1). Rainfall during the week ending September 3 was below normal in 22 of the 36 weather subdivisions, compared to 24 in the previous week. The all-India weighted rainfall was 27 percent below normal this week on top of a 39 percent deficiency the previous week. Major soybean, peanut, rice, cotton, and millet growing regions experienced poor rainfall for the past two and in some cases three consecutive weeks, which could adversely impact yield prospects.

Cumulative rainfall during June 1 to September 3 was normal or above normal in 29 weather subdivisions, and below normal in the remaining seven. The all-India weighted rainfall during this period was 3 percent below normal at 715.7 mm (Figure 2).

Recent unprecedented floods in several northern districts of Bihar following a breach in one of the barrages over river Kosi; and the river's subsequent change of course has left millions of people marooned in eight districts of the state and has inundated vast areas of farm land. The Prime Minister has declared this as a national calamity. The flood-affected districts in the state account for about one million tons of rice and 800,000 tons of corn production. However, the extent of crop damage is yet to be assessed. Severe flooding also recently occurred in some parts of Assam, inundating large areas of rice land.

The progressive planting report by the Agriculture Ministry shows that with the exception of rice and soybeans, area planted to most crops is still lagging behind last year's level up to August 22 (Table 1). With the planting season almost over for most crops, no significant additional planting is expected in crops such as coarse grains, cotton, and most oilseeds. Although the water level in major irrigations dams has improved following recent good rains, it is still 15 percent below last year's level, which could negatively impact planting of the winter season crops such as wheat, rice, and rapeseed.

Figure 1: Spatial and Temporal Distribution of Monsoon Rains

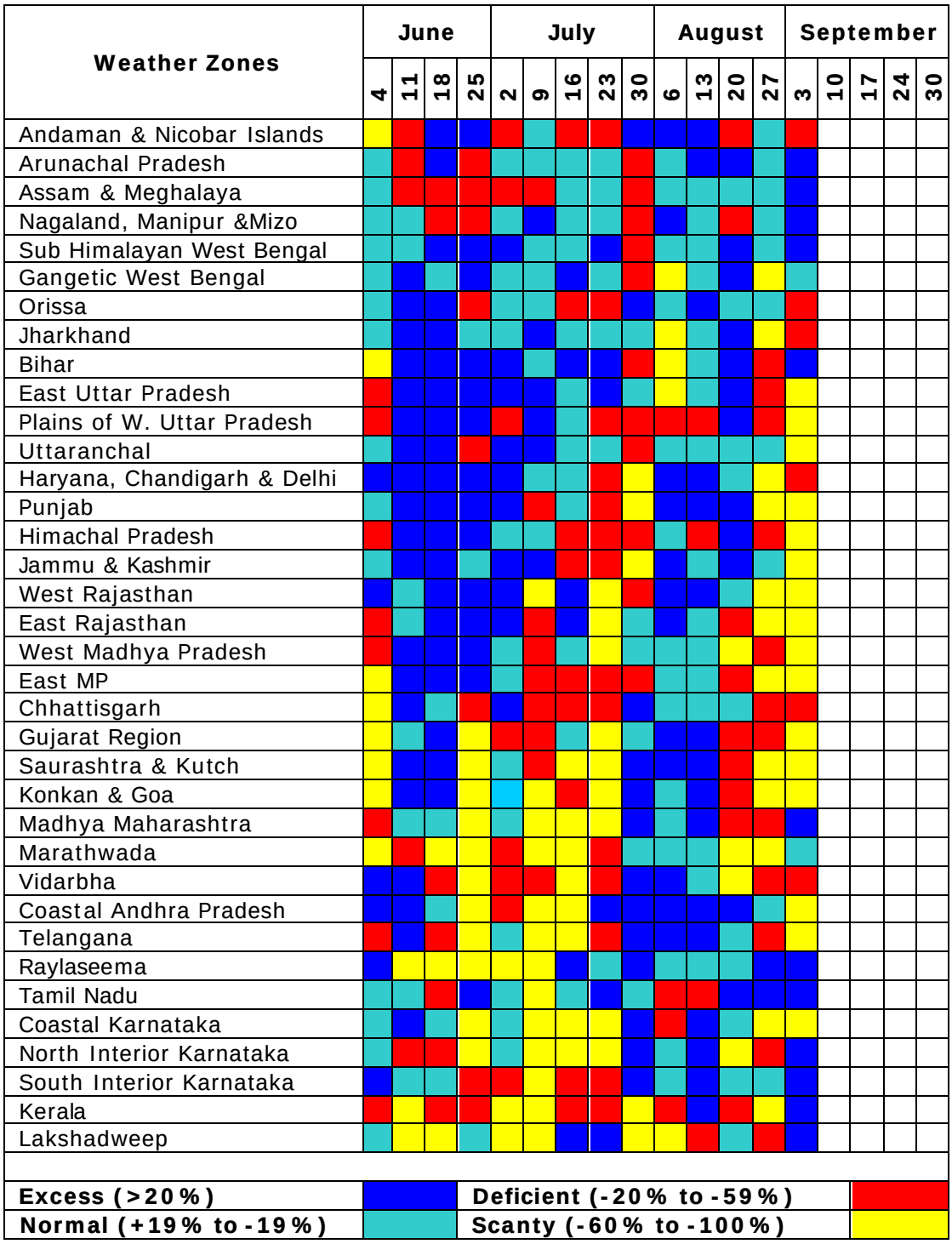

Figure 2: Cumulative Rainfall during June 1 to September 3, 2008

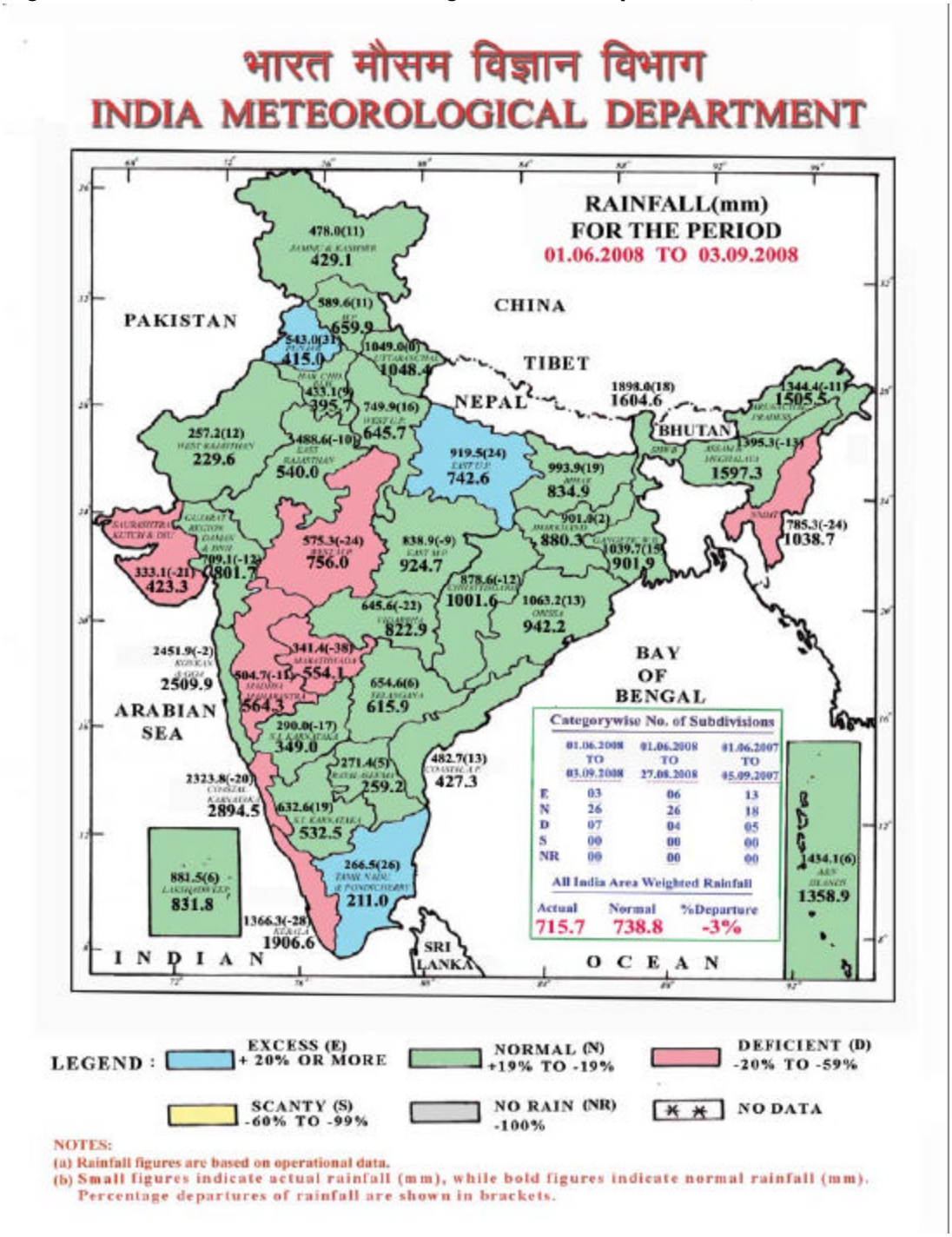

Table 1: Progressive Planting of Kharif Crops

All India Crop Situation - Kharif (2008-09) as on 22-08-2008

(in lakh hectares)

Crop Name	Normal Area	Area sown reported			Change vis-a-vis prev. year		Remarks
		This Year	% of Normal	Last Year	Absolute	Percentage	Changes in major States (abs, %)
Rice	391.17	324.63	83.0	303.56	21.1	6.9	AP (+9.4, +47.8), Ass (-1.7, -7.5), Bih (+2.8, +7.4), Chh (-1.4, -4.0), Guj (-1.6, -32.0), Har (+0.6, +8.7), Kar (+0.2, +16.7), MP (+5.5, +6.6), Maha (-1.2, -9.6), Ori (+1.0, +3.2), Pun (+0.5, +1.8), TN (+0.7, +45.0), UP (+18.2, +46.9), WB (+0.8, +2.7)
Jowar	42.08	27.50	65.4	33.31	-5.8	-17.4	AP (-0.5, -45.7), Guj (-0.2, -8.9), Kar (-0.8, -25.4), MP (-0.3, -6.2), Maha (-3.5, -28.4), Raj (+0.8, +9.2), TN (-0.7, -52.5), UP (-0.7, -32.3)
Bajra	91.81	72.35	78.7	80.48	-8.1	-10.1	AP (-0.8, -47.5), Guj (-2.2, -32.7), Har (+0.5, +7.1), Kar (-2.2, -58.9), Maha (-3.4, -44.3), Raj (+0.7, +1.7), UP (+1.2, +17.4)
Maize	63.71	66.64	104.6	71.78	-5.1	-7.2	AP (-1.7, -58.7), J & K (-0.4, -21.7), Jhar (-0.5, -24.8), Kar (-2.1, -20.5), Maha (-1.2, -28.3), Raj (+0.4, +6.3), TN (-0.8, -42.0), UP (-0.1, -3.4)
Total Coarse Cereals	226.54	164.05	74.2	204.02	-20.0	-9.8	AP (-5.8, -55.2), Guj (-2.7, -21.0), Har (+0.7, +6.8), J&K (-0.5, -22.8), Jhar (-0.5, -24.4), Kar (-4.5, -12.3), MP (-0.2, -4.5), Maha (-9.0, -16.5), Raj (+1.6, +2.8), TN (-1.0, -39.4), UP (+0.2, +1.2)
Total Cereals	617.71	508.69	82.3	507.58	1.1	0.2	
Tur	34.60	31.48	90.6	37.03	-5.6	-15.0	AP (-1.8, -30.1), Bih (-0.3, -45.2), Kar (-2.2, -29.5), Maha (-2.2, -15.2), TN (+0.5, +850.8), UP (-0.5, -11.0)
Urad	25.31	19.56	77.4	24.90	-5.4	-21.6	Kar (-0.8, -32.8), MP (-2.8, -40.5), Maha (-1.6, -49.7), UP (-1.5, -41.7)
Moong	26.16	22.91	87.6	30.33	-7.4	-24.5	AP (-0.6, -53.8), Guj (-0.5, -28.2), Kar (-2.8, -57.3), Maha (-2.9, -41.4), [illegible]
Others	22.64	21.61	95.4	20.51	1.1	5.4	
Total Pulses	108.71	95.57	87.9	112.86	-17.3	-15.3	AP (-6.8, -48.4), Bih (-0.5, -42.8), Guj (-2.3, -45.3), Jhar (-0.8, -31.3), Kar (-5.6, -38.6), MP (-0.8, -7.4), Maha (-8.1, -34.4), Raj (+7.6, +14.6), TN (+0.4, +14.2), UP (-2.7, -46.8)
Total Foodgrains	726.42	604.26	83.2	620.44	-16.2	-2.6	
Groundnut	53.54	49.54	92.5	50.77	-1.2	-2.4	AP (-0.4, -2.6), Guj (+1.3, +7.8), Kar (-1.2, -16.5), MP (-0.2, -12.4), Maha (-0.9, -22.3), Raj (+0.2, +4.5)
Soyabean	72.64	94.12	129.7	86.84	7.3	8.4	AP (+0.4, +37.4), Kar (+0.4, +22.2), MP (+2.9, +5.8), Maha (+2.5, +9.9), Raj (+5.6, +13.4)
Sunflower	7.50	4.11	54.8	6.83	-2.7	-39.8	AP (-0.6, -50.5), Kar (-2.1, -38.6), Maha (-0.2, -49.8)
Sesamum	14.48	13.19	91.0	14.54	-1.4	-9.1	AP (-0.5, -47.4), Guj (-0.7, -21.8), Kar (-0.3, -39.6), MP (-0.4, -16.7), Maha (-0.3, -38.5), Raj (+0.8, +38.7)
Niger	3.83	1.95	50.4	2.09	-0.2	-7.2	
Castor	7.01	5.81	82.8	6.44	-0.6	-9.8	
Total Oilseed (Nine)	158.97	168.70	106.1	167.51	1.19	0.7	AP (-1.6, -7.9), Guj (+0.7, +4.2), Kar (-3.4, -22.4), MP (+2.5, +13.9), Maha (+1.2, +3.7), Raj (+2.2, +15.5), TN (+0.2, +6.5)
Cotton	83.73	87.05	104.0	90.89	-3.8	-4.2	AP (+1.2, +10.5), Guj (-1.5, -6.0), Har (-0.7, -13.6), Maha (-2.5, -6.2), Pun (-0.4, -7.5), Raj (-1.5, -44.0)
Sugarcane	41.47	44.13	106.4	52.95	-8.8	-16.7	AP (-1.2, -47.3), Bih (+0.4, +12.7), Har (-0.4, -26.7), Kar (-0.1, -15.0), [illegible] (-7.0, -27.5), Pun (-0.3, -21.5), TN (-1.3, -7.3), UP (-8.8, -13.7), Uttaranchal (-0.1, -15.5)
Jute	8.24	7.37	89.4	8.26	-0.9	-10.8	Bih (+0.1, +5.1), WB (-1.0, -14.4)
All Crops	1018.23	911.50	89.5	940.05	-28.56	-3.0	

Source: Crops & TMOP Divisions DAC